COMMANDERS DIGEST

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SecDef Announces Details On Realignment Actions

Additional details on the 149 actions to consolidate, reduce or discontinue DOD activities in the United States and overseas have been announced by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara.

Military activities in 39 states and the District of Columbia are affected by 126 actions. The remaining 23 affect overseas activities, including one in Puerto Rico.

Secretary McNamara said the majority of the actions result from basic force level and weapon systems changes which require the realignment of military forces and which permit the future consolidation, reduction or discontinuance of military facilities.

Actions Emphasize Consolidation

Remainder of the actions continue to emphasize consolidation of related activities and joint use of facilities among the military departments, he said.

Principal actions announced by the Secretary include:

The basic bomber force and the base structure of the Strategic Air Command to be adjusted while maintaining the required strategic nuclear capability. This will be accomplished by phasing out of the inventory older models of the B-52 bombers and all B-58 bombers. Six major base actions involved, along with realignment of the bomber force, will result in annual savings of $127.5 million. Certain other bases, from which B-52 operations are being removed, are being retained for a new mission which will be disclosed subsequently.

AF Air Defenses Reduced

A comprehensive study of the Continental Air Defense and Early Warning System has been completed which will permit a reduction in activities at Air Force Air Defense Bases. In addition, the reduced Soviet bomber threat and the technological advances in early warning detection systems will permit the discontinuation of the Navy's seaward and airborne extension of the DEW LINE, frequently called Barrier Forces. The reduced bomber threat also permits the discontinuance of a number of NIKE-Hercules antiaircraft batteries. These actions will produce total savings of $150.7 million annually.

The Air Force will reduce eight Air Force Reserve and three Air Guard airlift squadrons in nine locations in the United States. This will save $28.2 million annually.

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DISTINGUISHED VISITOR — His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, U.S. Military Vicar, (left) is introduced to Dr. Ruprecht Rauch, Chief of Protocol for the Berlin Senate, by Major General John F. Franklin Jr., USA, U.S. Commander, Berlin, upon arrival at Tempelhof Central Airport for a visit with U.S. forces in the German capital.

Peace in Every Land U.S. Goal, Says LBJ

This nation stands and works for peace in every land, and there can be peace—especially in Vietnam —whenever men and other capitals are ready, President Johnson has told members of the Business Advisory Council.

Speaking via telephone from the Texas White House to the Washington Council meeting, the President repeated, "This nation is ready to talk, unconditionally, anywhere, with peace as our agenda."

He also explained that American servicemen are fighting to preserve freedom and defend justice in Vietnam, and have put the needs of their government and country ahead of personal desires and hopes.

"No one of us—businessmen, laboring man, government employee—can ever forget that what American fighting men are doing in Vietnam may well determine the shape and the form of your future, our future."

Peace in Vietnam will come from courage, from constancy and from concern, the President concluded, noting, "Peace is our commitment. Peace is our goal. Peace will be the only victory we seek."

Washington Memos

IN THE PAST five years some 1,300 U.S. service personnel lost their lives from hostile action in the Republic of Vietnam. Statistics for Jan. 1, 1961-Nov. 29, 1965 show that 1,103 were killed outright; 69 died from wounds; 182 died while missing; and two lost their lives while detained by enemy forces. Additionally, 420 have died from non-hostile action causes.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE has directed Air Force to proceed with development of reconnaissance version of F-111 tactical aircraft. Fort Worth Division of General Dynamics will develop the new version, called RF-111A. $12 million was authorized for initial development.

U.S. AND PERUVIAN government representatives have reached agreement on modifications of the Air Transport Agreement of 1946, as amended. Terms of the agreement will be submitted to the respective governments.

AS IN PAST actions, Defense will continue to protect individual employees affected by new base realignments, guaranteeing job opportunity for each career employee, paying transportation and moving expenses if relocation is required, and arranging for retraining at government expense.

DESTROYER ESCORT DAVIDSON (DE-1045) was commissioned Dec. 7 at Charleston, S.C. Senator Donald S. Russell, D.-S.C., was principal speaker. The Davidson, named for VAdm. Lyal A. Davidson, is designed for anti-submarine warfare.

GOVERNOR OTTO KERNER has signed into law a Vietnam Veterans' Compensation Act, passed by the 74th Illinois General Assembly. Correspondence on the $100 bonus should be addressed to Illinois Veterans' Commission, 221 W. Jefferson St., Springfield, Ill. 62705.

AVIATION'S LARGEST international production effort has brought about construction of some 2,200 F-104G Super Starfighters for 14 free world nations, according to a Lockheed-California spokesman. Six countries — Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Canada and Japan — have been licensed to build the stubby-winged air superiority fighter. Other nations using the Mach 2 aircraft are Norway, Turkey, Greece, Nationalist China, Pakistan, Denmark, Spain and the U.S. The Lockheed spokesman said the Super Starfighter program has resulted in a gold flow favorable to the U.S. of about $1 billion.

FIRST U.S. NAVY ship to bear the name of an American killed in action in Republic of Vietnam will be the destroyer escort USS Roark (DE-1053). Lieutenant William N. Roark, a naval aviator, was killed on an armed reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam April 7, 1965. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross posthumously.

UPDATED VOTING INFORMATION pamphlet has been published to help commanding officers and military and civilian voting officers advise personnel of absentee voting process. The pamphlet, DOD GEN-6A "Voting Information 1966," also lists current election dates and summaries of voting laws. Monthly voting information bulletins are planned to keep the data current.

AIRMAN THIRD CLASS Gerald T. Raynor, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., was recently awarded first place in U.S. Air Force Military Suggestion Program for FY65. The $1,500 award brought Airman Raynor's winnings to $2,650 for devising special tools to remove rivets from combustion liners on J-79 engines. First year savings to government were $490,000.

THE POLICY BOARD of the Secretary of the Navy has met for preliminary hearings and recommendations of the Secretary's task force on military personnel retention. The task force has been studying 12 retention problem areas since early January. Final task force report is expected in February 1966.

TWO MORE TRANSPORTS of the Navy's Military Sea Transportation Service, USNSs General Simon B. Buckner and General Alexander M. Patch, will return to trans-Atlantic service from the Pacific in December, according to Rear Admiral R. T. Whitaker, Commander, MSTS Atlantic Area.

HELICOPTER PILOTS IN Vietnam are now able to make their own smoke screens to conceal aerial assaults and landings by using a newly developed adaptation kit for standard smoke grenades fired from the XM-3 rocket launcher below helicopter's downwash. Full load of 288 grenades can lay thousand-meter-long smoke screen.

Realignment . . .

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Department of the Army actions in Puerto Rico will bring annual savings of $11.4 million.

When all actions are completed there will be annual savings of $410 million and reduction of 53,010 personnel, without decreasing military effectiveness or limiting current and future activities in Southeast Asia. Some 93,691 acres of land will also be released for non-Defense use.

Secretary McNamara said the 22 overseas actions, excluding Puerto Rico, will not be announced until a later date, after governments of the countries concerned have been consulted.

These actions are in Europe, the northern Pacific and the Western Hemisphere, and will produce an annual savings of $81 million. No movement of combat military forces is involved.

In order to minimize the impact on employees and communities, the secretary said actions announced will be phased over a period of several years.

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Background for Commanders

Communist China and the United Nations

Should Communist China represent China in the United Nations? This question has been raised 15 times in the U.N. General Assembly since the Chinese Communists conquered mainland China in 1949. For 10 years (1951-1960) the Assembly voted not to consider the question. After all, the Assembly in 1951 had declared Communist China an aggressor in Korea. That declaration still stands.

Four times, beginning in 1961 (no vote was taken in 1964), the General Assembly has debated a resolution to substitute the representatives of Peiping for those of Taipei in the U.N., and four times has voted against it. The last vote, in November 1965, was 47-47, with 20 abstentions.

The resolution does not ask the Assembly to admit Communist China as a **new** member but to admit it as the **only** representative of China and to **expel** the Republic of China. The Assembly has always voted that this is an "important question," which requires a two-thirds majority vote, rather than a "procedural" one. The Republic of China, now on Taiwan, was one of the original signers of the U.N. Charter and is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Pro-Admission Arguments

The principal arguments advanced by the nations that favor admission of Communist China to the U.N.:

1. The Chinese Communist regime governs mainland China and 700 million people, and is therefore the only legitimate representative of China;

2. As a corollary to the above, the Nationalist regime of Chiang Kai-shek on Taiwan does not and cannot represent all of China;

3. To be effective, the U.N. should be "universal" in its membership;

4. The problems of Asia, particularly the Vietnam war, cannot be settled without the participation of Communist China, the largest Asian power;

5. Communist China is a nuclear power, and the problems of disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons cannot be solved without the participation of the Peiping government;

6. Communist China's scornful hostility to the U.N. and bellicose foreign policies might be modified if she were brought into the organization instead of being treated as a pariah.

Anti-Admission Arguments

The United States, supported by the countries that also voted against any change in the representation of China in the U.N., maintains that:

1. Communist China's aggression against Korea, Tibet, and India, and her support of North Vietnam's aggression against South Vietnam disqualify her for membership in the U.N.;

2. In view of Peiping's open advocacy of war and violent revolution all over the world, to seat Communist China in the U.N. would only encourage it on its path of violence;

3. Entry to the U.N. after Peiping's new arrogant conditions for its admission (see last section below) would be tantamount to "yielding to undisguised blackmail;"

4. Communist China is openly opposed to the goals of the U.N. There is no reason to believe that membership in the U.N. would "reform" the Peiping regime. Its entry would be a disruptive force that would work against the U.N.'s future effectiveness;

5. There are no grounds for expulsion of the Republic of China, for it is a sovereign state exercising effective control over more territory than that of at least 18 U.N. members and over a population larger than that of 83 members.

The Question of 'Two Chinas'

Some of the nations that voted for the resolution to admit Communist China to the U.N., as well as some of those that voted against it, believe that Peiping should be admitted but that the Nationalist government on Taiwan should not be expelled. Some have suggested admission of both, one as the representative of China, the other as representative of Taiwan.

One obstacle to this solution is that both governments have so far emphatically refused to accept the "two Chinas" concept. **Communist Chinese leaders have made the ousting of the Republic of China the first condition for their acceptance of membership in the U.N.**

Other Chinese Communist Demands

Does Communist China really want to be in the U.N.? In a Sept. 29 news conference, the Chinese Communist Foreign Minister Chen I denounced the U.N. as a "tool of the United States." He said the U.N. should be reformed, first by expelling the Republic of China, then by canceling its resolution condemning Communist China and North Korea as aggressors and adopting a resolution condemning the United States as the aggressor. In addition, Chen I demanded that the U.N. Charter be revised. "All independent states should be included in the United Nations," he said, "and all imperialist puppets should be expelled."

According to this formula, the only nations allowed to remain in the U.N. would be those that agreed with Communist China's policies of aggression. It is no wonder, then, that even some of the countries that made the loudest and longest demands for Communist China's admission to the U.N. had to admit privately that they did not know whether it really wants to become a member.

Congress Receives Report Jan. 10 on 16 Defense Realignments

Among the 149 actions announced by Secretary of Defense McNamara on Dec. 8 to close, consolidate or reduce military bases and activities were 16 actions, subject to Congressional review, to be presented to the Armed Services Committees of Congress on Jan. 10, 1966. The 16 actions, which result in complete closure or abandonment of military bases employing more than 250 military and civilian personnel, will be reported to the committees in accordance with Section 611 of the FY66 Military Construction Authorization Act.

No closures of bases affected by the actions will take place until 30 days after the Jan. 10 report. The actions are:

Sanford, Florida. The Naval Aviation Training Mission, Naval Air Station, Sanford, will be transferred to Turner AFB, Ga., by July 1968. Naval Air Station, Sanford, will be closed and declared excess.

Albany, Georgia. The 822nd Air Division, the 484th Bomber Wing and the 824th Bombardment Squadron and supporting units, located at Turner AFB, will be inactivated by July 1967 and the base transferred immediately to the Navy.

Columbus, Indiana. The 930th and 931st Troop Carrier Groups (C-119), located at Bakalar AFB will be inactivated by October 1967 and the base closed and reported to the General Services Administration (GSA) for disposal.

Boston, Massachusetts. The Boston Army Base will be closed and reported to GSA for disposal between January 1967 and the end of 1969. Reserve functions will be relocated to the Boston Naval Shipyard.

Kinross, Michigan. The 438th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Kincheloe AFB will be relocated to Wurtsmith AFB by July 1969, to replace the F-101 squadron, which inactivates. The 449th Bombardment Wing and supporting units will inactivate by October 1970 and the base will be closed and declared excess. The separate BOMARC Site will be retained.

Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The Naval Hospital at Seavey's Island will be phased out and declared excess by June 1973. Prior to the closure a small replacement hospital will be established at Pease AFB to accommodate Air Force and Navy personnel remaining in the area. The Naval Disciplinary Command at Portsmouth will be closed and the facilities declared excess by January 1969. Navy prisoners will be confined at the Army Disciplinary Barracks, Ft. Leavenworth, Kan.

Roswell, New Mexico. The 6th Strategic Air Command Bomb Wing at Walker AFB will be inactivated by July 1967 and the base closed and declared excess.

Youngstown, Ohio. The C-119 Air Reserve 910th Troop Carrier Group at Youngstown Municipal Airport will be inactivated by October 1967 and the Air Force installation closed.

Burns Flat, Oklahoma. The 70th Bomb Wing of the Strategic Air Command at Clinton-Sherman AFB will be inactivated by July 1970, the base closed and declared excess.

Portland, Oregon. The 460th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Portland International Airport will be inactivated by April 1966 and the facilities transferred to the Continental Air Command.

Smyrna, Tennessee. Tactical Air Command operating airlift mission at Sewart AFB and the Tactical Air Command C-130 Combat Crew Training mission will be relocated to other AFBs, Sewart will be closed and declared excess by July 1970.

El Paso, Texas. The 95th Bomb Wing of the Strategic Air Command at Biggs AFB will be inactivated by July 1966. Facilities will be transferred to the Army for use by the Defense Language Institute and the Army Aviation Laboratory by late 1966.

Genoa, Texas. The 924th and 925th Troop Carrier Air Reserve Groups at Ellington AFB will be inactivated and the Civil Air Patrol Headquarters relocated to **Maxwell AFB, Ala.**, by October 1967. The base will be transferred to the Air National Guard during 1967.

Waco, Texas. The 12th Air Force Headquarters will be relocated to Bergstrom AFB at Austin, Texas. Leased facilities will be terminated by July 1968.

San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Army Antilles Command in Puerto Rico will be inactivated and Ft. Buchanan in San Juan closed by the end of December 1966. The English Language Training Program will continue under sponsorship of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Ft. Buchanan will be declared excess to GSA and made available under applicable laws to the Commonwealth for non-military use.

Space Rendezvous Planned Next Week

Preparations were underway at week's end for a Sunday or Monday launch of Gemini 6 from Cape Kennedy, carrying Capt. Walter M. Schirra Jr., USN, and Maj. Thomas P. Stafford, USAF, for a historic chase-in-space and rendezvous with America's Gemini 7.

The latter craft lifted off precisely on schedule Dec. 4, carrying Lt. Col. Frank Borman, USAF, and Cdr. James Lovell Jr., USN, on a planned 14-day 206-orbit mission.

The two spacecraft are expected to rendezvous within six hours after Gemini 6 speeds skyward, to accomplish the first meeting of manned craft in space.

Military support for the twin missions amounts to thousands of personnel with a variety of skills. The services provide tracking stations and instrumented ships linking with NASA resources to form the Manned Space Flight Tracking network. The services also furnish specially trained medical personnel, including flight surgeons. Navy's Pacific and Atlantic fleets contribute ships and aircraft in two task forces as part of the recovery system. These units are augmented by Air Force's Air Rescue Service, which provides planes, helicopters and about 100 pararescuemen.